United Nations A/66/7/Add.15

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda items 134 and 69 (c)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1

Sixteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/C.5/66/10).

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under the terms of paragraph 32 of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General: (a) to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard; (b) to give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner; and (c) to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution.

3. The activities by which the requests would be implemented are described in paragraphs 4 to 9 of the statement. Paragraphs 10 to 14 contain information on the estimated resource requirements. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General estimates that the costs of continuing his good offices to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization through his Special Adviser

Please recycle

on Myanmar for the one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2012 would amount to $1,200,500 net ($1,358,100 gross). A more detailed breakdown of the related costs is provided as part of the Secretary-General's report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/66/354/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 37). **The Advisory Committee notes that the acting Special Adviser, who is also the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, has continued in the function since 1 January 2010 and that the appointment of a new Special Adviser is expected by the end of 2011 (ibid., para. 39).**

4. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, mentioned in paragraph 28 of the resolution, was a consultative forum established by the Secretary-General in support of the implementation of his good offices mandate. Established in 2007, it comprised 15 members: Australia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Viet Nam and the European Union. It was indicated that 16 meetings of the Group had been held since its inception, including four at the ministerial level. The meetings, including those held at the ministerial level, entailed no additional cost to the United Nations because the Group had always met at Headquarters.

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the budget of $228,000 for official travel of the Special Adviser included requirements for travel within the region ($199,288) as well as travel to Europe and North America ($29,312) for consultation with both national and international actors. The Committee was further informed that the Special Adviser was accompanied on his travels by staff to provide working level support and follow-up to the consultations. **The Advisory Committee expects that official travel will be undertaken only when necessary. The Committee encourages the Office of the Special Adviser to take full advantage of meeting opportunities in New York in order to reduce travel costs.**

6. With regard to the use of consultants, the Advisory Committee was informed that the broad reform agenda announced by President Thein Sein in March 2011 potentially offered a new basis and framework for closer engagement between Myanmar and the United Nations in a range of key areas relevant to the Secretary-General's good offices mandate and requiring expertise not available within the Secretariat. The engagement included areas such as the provision of technical assistance and support for the development of broad-based socio-economic policymaking and implementation processes, particularly in the areas of health, education and poverty reduction, to supplement national development priorities as part of Myanmar's stated political and economic transition.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that, with regard to the request concerning technical assistance contained in the last part of paragraph 32 (a) of the draft resolution, such assistance, if requested, would be accommodated within the technical cooperation activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Committee further notes that, with regard to the request pertaining to the Special Rapporteur contained in paragraph 32 (b) of the resolution, the related requirements are considered to be of a perennial nature. As such, a provision of an estimated $70,200 per annum to implement the activities of

the Special Rapporteur has been made under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1, resources amounting to $1,200,500 net ($1,358,100 gross) would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar. The Committee draws the attention of the Fifth Committee to the fact that those requirements, which would be charged against the provision proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, have already been submitted to the General Assembly at its current session (see A/66/354/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2 and the related report of the Advisory Committee, A/66/7/Add.12).**